

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 DIWY-01 L-03 OIC-02 EB-07

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SS-15 AID-05 CU-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /079 W
----- 098970

R 191340Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8784
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, PINR, IWY, UN, FI
SUBJECT: NEW SOCIAL MINISTER TO HEAD FINNISH DELEGATION TO
WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE

REF: A) HELSINKI 1223; B) STATE 119806

1. ALLI LAHTINEN, MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS IN FINLAND'S
NEW EXPERT GOVERNMENT APPOINTED JUNE 13, IS EXPECTED TO BE
OFFICIALLY NAMED ON JUNE 23 AS CHAIRMAN OF FINLAND'S DELEGATION
TO THE INTERNATIONAL WOMENS' YEAR CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY.
IN CONVERSATION JUNE 13, LAHTINEN TOLD EMBOFF THAT FINLAND'S
SPEAKING TURN WAS JUNE 24 AND SHE WILL PROBABLY ALREADY HAVE
ARRIVED IN MEXICO BY THE TIME HER NOMINATION IS CONFIRMED
BY PRESIDENT KEKKONEN. EMBASSY ISSUED JUNE 18 B-2 DIPLOMATIC
VISA FOR TRANSIT OF UNITED STATES.

2. ALLI KYLLIKKI LAHTINEN WAS BORN IN KORPILAHTI ON APRIL 11,
1926. HER MAIDEN NAME WAS ILOMAKI, AND SHE WAS MARRIED IN
1947. SHE IS A MOTHER, BUT GIVES NO INFORMATION ABOUT
HER FAMILY IN THE FINNISH "WHO'S WHO." SHE TOOK A
UNIVERSITY DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCE IN 1956. SHE WORKED
FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER ETEENPAIN IN KOTKA
FROM 1944 TO 1949. MS. LAHTINEN WAS EMPLOYED BY KOTKA'S
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CHILDREN'S PROTECTION BOARD, RETURNING AS ITS DIRECTOR

FROM 1959 TO 1968. IN 1958-59 SHE LED KOTKA'S PLACEMENT OFFICE FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS. SINCE 1968 SHE HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT'S SOCIAL AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION.

3 ALLI LAHTINEN HAS ALSO BEEN ACTIVE IN LOCAL POLITICS AND WIDE VARIETY OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS. SHE WAS A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY REPRESENTATIVE ON THE KOTKA CITY COUNCIL FROM 1954 TO 1968. SHE IS NOW ACTING AS A SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH MINISTER IN HER THIRD CONSECUTIVE EXPERT GOVERNMENT, HAVING PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN THIS POSITION IN BOTH 1970 AND IN 1971-72. HER PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE HEALTH CARE, LABOR SAFETY AND THE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY. THE OTHER SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, GREL'S TEIR, OVERSEES THE PENSION ADMINISTRATION AND SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS.

4. A TALL, SELF-CONFIDENT WOMEN WHO WEARS GLASSES AND KEEPS HER BLOND HAIR CUT SHORT, ALLI LAHTINEN SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND HAS OFTEN REPRESENTED FINLAND ABROAD. IN AN INTERVIEW LAST YEAR SHE WAS ASKED HER OPINION ON THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR AND REPLIED AS FOLLOWS: "IT HAS ALREADY ACTIVATED WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND THAT IS A GOOD THING IN MY OPINION. I HAVE MYSELF PARTICIPATED AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF FINLAND IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UN IN OUTLINING THE WOMEN'S YEAR AND WE FINNISH DELEGATES HAD THE OPINION THAT A PART OF PEOPLE'S TASKS COULD BE PLACED ON THE SHOULDERS OF WOMEN ALONE DURING SUCH A WOMEN'S YEAR -- WE EMPHASIZED THUS THE POINT THAT EQUALITY, SIMILAR DUTIES AND RIGHTS FOR MEN AND WOMEN MUST BE PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED."

5. ONE ADDITIONAL DEPUTY MEMBER OF THE FINNISH DELEGATION HAS ALSO BEEN SELECTED AS PREDICTED IN REFTEL A. SHE IS MRS. KATRI LAATUNEN, WHO HAS A DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND IS A MEMBER OF THE LIBERAL PEOPLES' PARTY, ALTHOUGH NOT A PROMINENT ONE. ALSO WITH THE FINNISH DELEGATION IS EEVA-MAIJA PUUKIO, A YOUNG LAWYER. SINCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREPARING THE PREVIOUS TELEGRAM WE HAVE IDENTIFIED HELVI SAARINEN AS A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. AS WITH MOST FINNISH DELEGATIONS OF THIS NATURE, ALL THE MAJOR POLITICAL GROUPINGS ARE REPRESENTED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HELSIN01311
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750214-0085
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750635/aaaabfyj.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 HELSINKI 1223, 75 STATE 119806
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW SOCIAL MINISTER TO HEAD FINNISH DELEGATION TO WOMEN'S YEAR CONFERENCE
TAGS: OCON, PINR, FI, MX, UN, IVY, (LAHTINEN, ALLI KYLLIKKI)
To: STATE MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006